

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 892

By Niceley

A RESOLUTION to request that the Tennessee Valley Authority maintain operation of its coal-fired plants until a reliable backup to the power grid is developed.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) announced in April 2021 that it plans to retire the remainder of its coal-fired power fleet, one of the oldest in the country, by 2035; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, the nation's largest public utility has retired more than half of its coal-fired fleet; and

WHEREAS, TVA is currently operating four coal-fired plants in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, each plant has a large supply of coal, but none of the plants are operating at capacity; and

WHEREAS, TVA's current power grid is 19 percent coal, 39 percent nuclear, 11 percent hydroelectric, 26 percent natural gas, and 4 percent renewal; and

WHEREAS, the only power grid source that can be rapidly ramped up is coal—the Earth's most inexpensive, reliable form of energy; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a power grid emergency such as a polar vortex, coal-fired plants could increase their production by using the backup of coal stockpiled at their facilities, allowing Tennessee the opportunity to be proactive in responding to potential weather emergencies and thus avoid catastrophic system-wide power outages; and

WHEREAS, Bull Run Fossil Plant, located on Bull Run Creek near Oak Ridge, is the only single-generator coal-fired power plant in the TVA system; when the generator went into operation in 1967, it was the largest in the world in the volume of steam produced; and

WHEREAS, with a summer net capability of 865 megawatts, Bull Run Fossil Plant generates approximately six billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year, enough to supply 400,000 homes; and

WHEREAS, the TVA Board of Directors approved the retirement of Bull Run Fossil Plant by December 2023, after a detailed review of fuel, transmission, economic, and environmental impacts, in addition to reviewing public input; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we request that the Tennessee Valley Authority maintain operation of its coal-fired plants until the Authority develops a reliable back-up to the power grid.